

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

periodically transmitting, at a switch, a heartbeat message to a network having one or more repeaters, the heartbeat message including a ~~VLAN-ID~~ virtual local area network (VLAN) identifier (ID) identifying the switch; [[and]]

listening at a previously inactive repeater to messages transmitted over the network for the heartbeat message identifying the switch when the previously inactive repeater is activated; and

in response to a response from [[a]] the previously inactive repeater, transmitting VLAN configuration information to the repeater. ~~repeater, the VLAN configuration information including a VLAN ID identifying each traffic criteria.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The method of independent claim 9, further comprising:

downloading operating software to the previously inactive repeater to enable the repeater to operate.

11-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

determining at a repeater that a connection between the repeater and a switch is down[[,]] based on at least one of a group consisting of a heartbeat, a beacon, ~~and/or~~ and data messages received from the switch; and

in response to the determination, performing a reset process within the repeater that enables the repeater to reestablish a new connection with the switch, wherein the reset process further comprises:

listening at the repeater messages broadcasted over a network;

identifying at least one message that is associated with the switch, the message associated with the switch including a VLAN ID identifying the switch; and

establishing a connection with the switch using the VLAN ID.

27. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

determining at a repeater that a connection between the repeater and a switch is down based on at least one of a heartbeat, beacon, and/or data messages received from the switch; and

in response to the determination, performing a reset process within the repeater that enables the repeater to reestablish a new connection with the switch, wherein the reset process comprises:

broadcasting a message at the repeater to the switch, the ~~broadcasted~~ message indicating that the repeater is entering [[the]] a network;

receiving ~~VLAN (virtual local area network)~~ virtual local area network
(VLAN) configuration information from the switch;
downloading operating software from the switch to launch an operating
environment of the repeater; and
communicating with the switch using the VLAN configuration
information in subsequent communications.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

determining, at a switch based on ~~heartbeat messages or other~~ responses received
from a first repeater, that a connection between the switch and the first repeater is down;
in response to the determination, determining, after a predetermined period of
time, whether there is still at least one mobile station associated with the first repeater;
and
reassociating the at least one mobile station with a second repeater if there is still
at least one mobile station associated with the first repeater.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein reassociating the
at least one mobile station comprises:

performing a token handoff process from the first repeater to the second repeater
to allow the second repeater to communicate with the mobile station as a primary
repeater.

31-40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more repeaters are communicatively coupled to the switch.

42. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
storing the VLAN ID identifying the switch in a local memory after finding the heartbeat message identifying the switch.

43. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the response from the previously inactive repeater includes a second heartbeat message using the VLAN ID identifying the switch.

44. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of listening at the previously inactive repeater comprises:

listening at the previously inactive repeater to all messages transmitted over the network regardless of VLAN types; and

looking for the heartbeat message identifying the switch when the previously inactive repeater is activated.

45. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the previously inactive repeater is activated by performing at least one of a group consisting of:

powering up the previously inactive repeater, and
plugging the previously inactive repeater into a port of the switch.

46. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the VLAN configuration information includes a VLAN ID identifying each traffic criteria.